

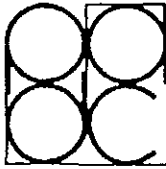
HABS
DC,
WASH,
306-

Judiciary Building
601 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-596

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION
425 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

GENERAL CONSULTANTS

ANDERSON, NOTTER / MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
DEVROUX & PURNELL
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
DAVID MCLAREN, HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK, DUNSTONE, ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

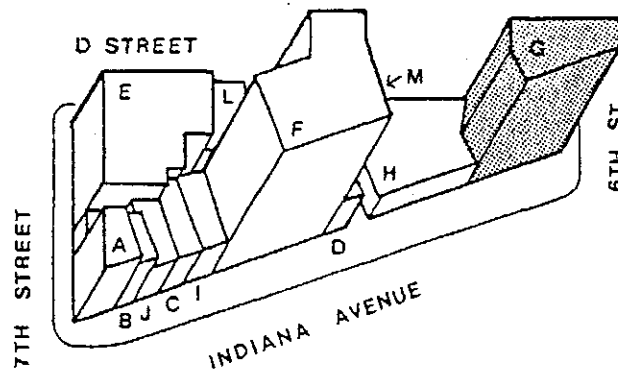
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS DC-596

HABS
DC,
WASH.,
306-

The Judiciary Building
601 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Lot 824



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 458, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 458, see HABS No. DC-618.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

On the eastern end of Square 458 at 601 Indiana Avenue is the Judiciary Building. Located on Lot 824, this ten-story office building overlooks Judiciary Square. Trapezoidal in plan, this structure conforms to a tapering site. It measures approximately one hundred feet along Indiana Avenue and D Street, thirty feet along Sixth Street, and seventy feet along the west party wall; the building height is approximately one hundred forty feet, excluding a small penthouse structure which houses mechanical equipment on the roof. The column grid is recessed from the building perimeter. The steel and concrete structure has granite and limestone facings on the exterior facades. The Indiana Avenue street facade is characterized by flat elevations.

There are continuous glass storefronts at the ground level which rest on a base of granite panels. This window curtain is punctuated at the center, left, and right by deeply recessed entrances. Above the ground level is the curtain wall of alternating limestone and glass bands that rise uninterrupted for the entire nine-story height. At each level the bands of aluminum framed windows wrap around the entire building (except on the brick-clad west elevation). Windows are slightly recessed from the wall plane and are outlined by a smooth, slightly projecting sill.

Aluminum mullions faintly establish a seven bay rhythm. Each bay carries an awning sash set between fixed lateral lights.

The D and Sixth Street elevations repeat the detailing found on the main facade with slight alteration. The D Street elevation carries seven window bays. There are two entrances and a loading dock entrance at the street level to the west. Because of the decreased building width along Sixth Street, the facade has two bays.

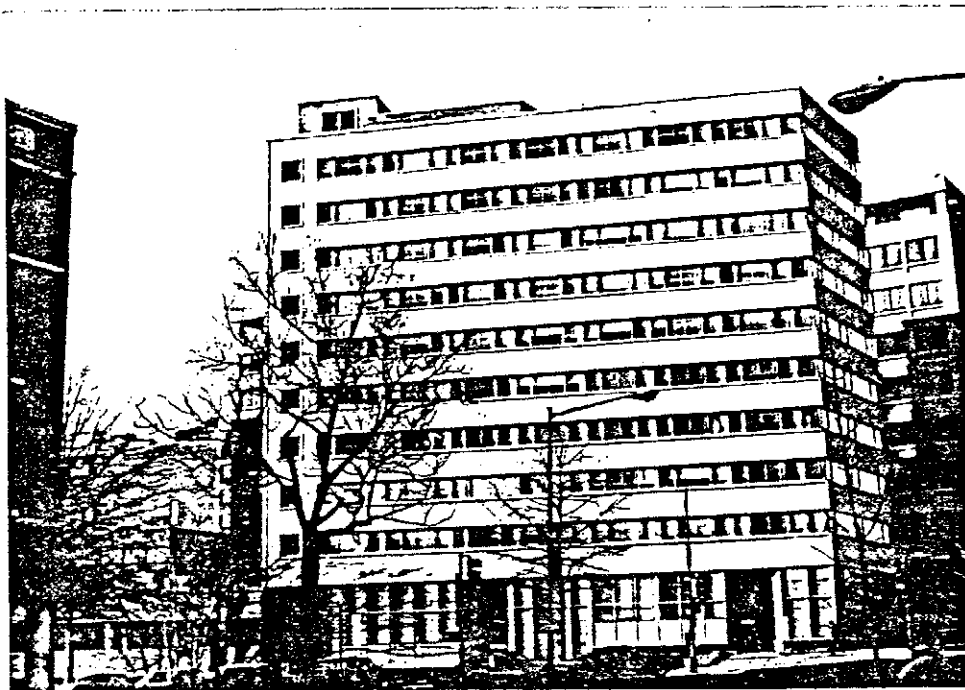
Realized on a large scale, the modern, open-planned interiors are designed for maximum tenant flexibility. The building is occupied by several legal and social departments of the District of Columbia Government.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

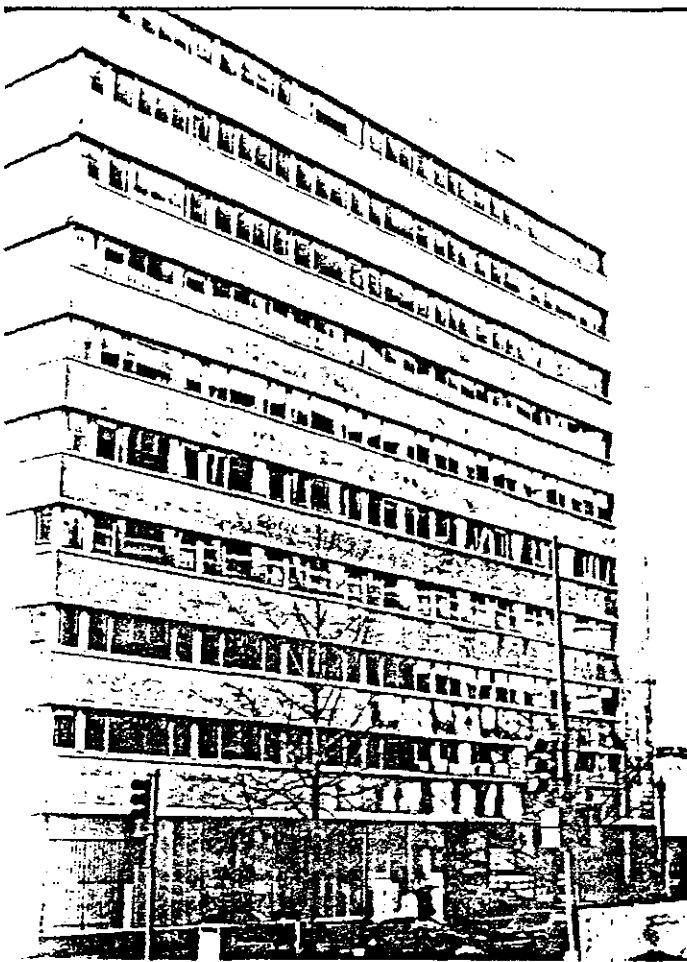
The Judiciary Building is an example of competent mid-Twentieth Century design (Building Permit #B75915, 6/49/1861), whose large mass and detailing draw on the International Style. The facade's granite and limestone surfaces produce wide planar expanses. The building was designed as a large scale development and was set in the urban context of smaller late Nineteenth Century commercial buildings. It is not sympathetic in scale, massing or design to the smaller structures of the square: is sufficiently distant from them, however, to eliminate any direct relationship.



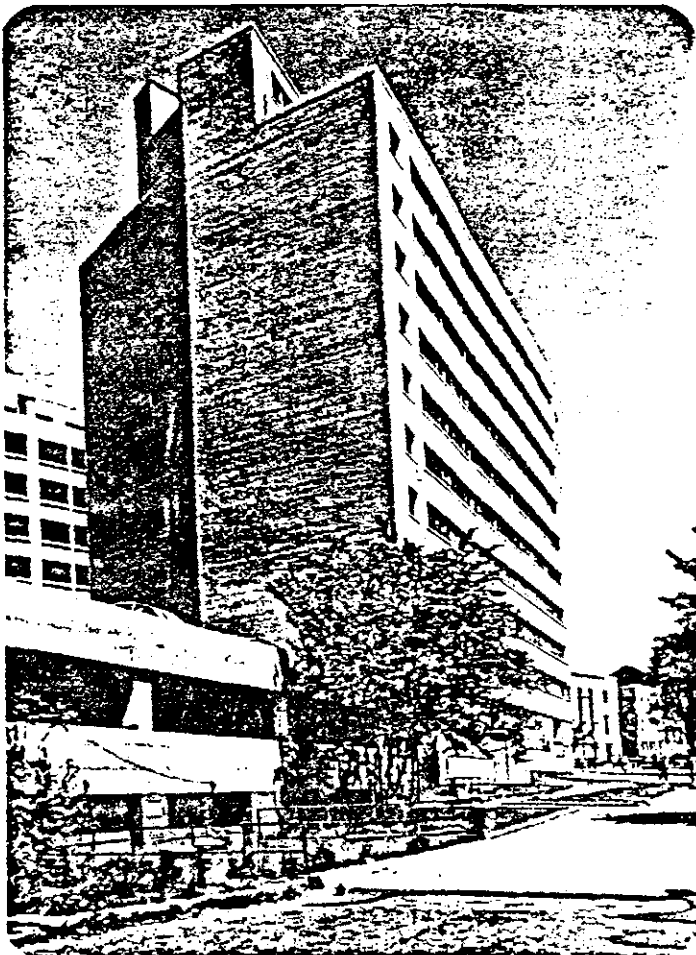
Sixth Street Facade (East)



Indiana Avenue Facade (South)



D Street Facade (North)



West Elevation

Lot 1 (Sublots A, B, C, D, 20, 800)
601-611 Louisiana Avenue 602-612 D Street

Lot 1, as originally platted, measured 106 feet on its north side which fronted D Street, 101 feet on its south side which fronted Louisiana Avenue (now Indiana Avenue), and 32.5 feet on its east side which faced Sixth Street. Lot 1 was later subdivided into 6 lots designated A, B, C, D, 20 and 800. All six lots had frontage on both D Street and Louisiana Avenue. Lot A also had frontage on Sixth Street.

1796.....In August of 1796, a surveyor subdivided Square 458 into seven lots. At this time the District Commissioners took control of Lot 1 along with Lots 2, 3 and 5 (Records of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia, N.K. 139).

1819.....Lot 1 was assessed in three parts to John Bramman, Ingle Lindsly and William Hunt.

1824.....John Bramman's assessment was for \$1,085.00 for the ground and \$1,900.00 for the improvements to the property.

Ingle Lindsly was assessed for his portion of the property, which included part of Lot 1 and part of Lot 2 for a ground value of \$663.00 and an improvement value of \$4,000.00.

William Hunt was also assessed for the portion of Lot 1 and a portion of Lot 2. His assessment was \$1,062.00 for the ground and \$1,800.00 for the improvements.

Lot 1 (Sublot A, 824)
601 Louisiana Avenue, 602 D Street

1872.....The lot was assessed to Angelica Simpson at a value of \$4,395.00.

The City Directory lists the real estate agents, Clark and Travis,
at 601 Louisiana Avenue.

1877.....The City Directory lists Yvon Pike, a Patent Attorney, as the tenant
of 602 D Street.

1878.....A.C. Richards, a Justice of the Peace, was listed under 601 Louisiana
Avenue in the City Directories.

1878/79...Lot A was assessed to Margaret K. Simpson at a ground value of
\$3,663.00.

1883/84...Sublot A was reassessed to Margaret K. Simpson for the same amount.

1889
to

1896.....601 Louisiana Avenue was occupied as a cigar and tobacco establish-
ment under Conrad Zeller, according to the City Directories.

1893/94...The lot was still assessed in the name of Margaret K. Simpson at a
ground value of \$3,927.00 with the improvements assessed at \$1,800.00.

1908
to

1924.....The grocers, Cokos and Mantis, were tenants of 601 Louisiana Avenue
according to the City Directories.

1925
to

1948.....Peter S. Mantis is listed in the City Directories as operating a
grocery store and occasionally a restaurant at 601 Louisiana Avenue.

1931.....Louisiana Avenue was renamed Indiana Avenue.

1961.....A building permit was granted to the Judiciary Building on December 11
to build a ten story brick, granite, limestone and concrete office
building (Permit #B81623, cost \$300,000.00).

1967.....The City Directory listed the occupants of the building as follows:

Room 200	District Legal Aid Attorney
302	District Bureau of Milk
3D5	District Bureau of Public Health
403	District Bureau of Goods and Drugs
404	District Bureau of Community Hygiene
5D5	District Bureau of Dental Health
508	District Bureau of Psychiatric Service
6D9	District Bureau of Nursing
804	District Bureau of Material and Public Health

1981.....The Judiciary Building as it stands today houses a wide variety of District Government offices.

Lot 1 (Sublot B, 824)
603 Louisiana Avenue, 604-606 D Street

1872.....The lot was assessed to Angelica Simpson at a value of \$4,873.00.

1878/79...Lot 8 was assessed to Margaret K. Simpson at a ground value of \$3,987.00.

1883/84...The lot was reassessed to Margaret K. Simpson for the same amount.

1901

to

1913.....Edward Kinsey, a furniture dealer, was a tenant of the building for a period of thirteen years, according to the City Directories.

1920.....A building permit was issued to J.G. Webster at 606 D Street to install two show windows. The building was described in the permit as a two story brick structure with a tin roof used as a dwelling. The permit was granted on September 9th, 1920 (Permit #1962).

1931.....Louisiana Avenue was renamed Indiana Avenue.

1961.....A building permit was granted on December 11th to build a ten story brick, concrete, stone and granite building for the Judiciary Building, Inc. The building was to cover Lots A, B, C, and D of the original Lot 1 (Permit #B1623, cost \$300,000.00).

1967

to

1981.....The Judiciary Building as it stands today houses a variety of District Government Bureaus.

Lot 1 (Sublot C, 824)
605 Louisiana Avenue, 608 D Street

1872.....Lot C was assessed \$2,643.00 to Angelica Simpson.

1878/79...Margaret K. Simpson was assessed for Lot C \$2,162.00 for the value of the ground.

1881

to

1890.....The City Directories list C.E. Stanford, an undertaker's supply seller, at 605 Louisiana Avenue.

1883/84...The lot was reassessed to Margaret K. Simpson for the same amount.

1893/94...Margaret K. Simpson's assessment rose to \$2,643.00 with improvements to the property assessed at \$1,400.00.

1895.....A building permit was issued to Margaret K. Simpson on October 18th to take out the old storefront, the first story, and replace the window sills, columns and beams with iron. The permit described the building as a three story brick dwelling and store situated on Lot C (Permit #654, Architect: Glenn Brown, cost: \$200.00).

1916

to

1925.....Max Hyman, a furniture dealer, occupied 605 Louisiana Avenue according to the City Directories.

1931.....Louisiana Avenue was renamed Indiana Avenue.

1961.....A building permit was granted to the Judiciary Building, Inc. to build a ten story office building made of granite, limestone, brick and concrete on December 11. The building was to cover Lot A, B, C and D of the original Lot 1 (Permit #81623, cost: \$300,000.00).

1967

to

1981.....The Judiciary Building as it stands today houses a variety of District Government Bureaus.

Lot 1 (Sublot D, 824)
607 Louisiana Avenue, 610 D Street

1872.....The lot was assessed to Angelica Simpson at a value of \$2,874.00.

1878/79...Margaret K. Simpson was assessed \$2,351.00 for the ground value of Lot D.

1879
to

1888.....The architect, Glenn Brown, was listed at 607 Louisiana Avenue.

1879
to

1894.....Thomas Turner, a Notary Public, was listed in the City Directories under 607 Louisiana Avenue.

1879
to

1900.....The City Directories list George Domer, a civil engineer, at 607 Louisiana Avenue.

1880
to

1908.....The lawyer, William B. Lord, was listed in the City Directories at 607 Louisiana Avenue.

1883/84...The lot was reassessed to Margaret K. Simpson for \$2,351.00.

1893
to

1908.....Frederick Zeller, a tailor, was listed under 607 Louisiana Avenue as the tenant, in the City Directories.

1893
to

1910.....The City Directories list Edward Devlin, locks and gunsmith, at 610 D Street.

1915
to

1940.....Alonzo Keefer, a carpenter, and Joseph Keefer, a claims agent, occupied 607 Louisiana Avenue for a period of thirty-six years.

1931.....Louisiana Avenue was renamed Indiana Avenue.

1961.....A building permit dated December 11th was granted to the Judiciary Building, Inc. to build a ten story brick, concrete, granite and limestone building to cover Lots A, B, C, and D of the original Lot 1 (Permit #81623, cost: \$300,000.00).

1967

to

1981.....The Judiciary Building houses a variety of District Government Bureaus.

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewl Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map